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Identical letters dated 4 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith identical letters dated 4 October 2012, addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council regarding the incident that took place on 3 October 2012 at the Syrian-Turkish border (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following:

The competent authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic have affirmed that they are diligently investigating the source of the gunfire that killed a Turkish woman and her children. Sincere condolences were offered to the victims' family and the fraternal Turkish people on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. In the case of border incidents, which can occur along the border of any two neighbouring States, it is imperative that the States and Governments should act in a wise, logical and responsible manner. This is particularly relevant in view of the delicate situation along the Syrian-Turkish border, owing to the widespread presence along that border of various violent armed terrorist groups, each with its own agenda. Such a situation constitutes a threat to the security of Syria and the countries of the region. The Syrian-Turkish border is long, and that length is being exploited in operations to smuggle weapons, equipment and the armed terrorists who have committed massacres in Syria. The most recent of those was the horrific massacre in Aleppo that was committed by Al-Qaida, and in which several civilians were killed. In its relations with neighbouring countries, Syria has always abided by the principles of good-neighbourly relations and respect for national sovereignty. It calls on those countries to reciprocate by respecting Syria's national sovereignty and cooperating with it in controlling the borders and preventing armed individuals and terrorists from infiltrating, just as Syria does.

We should like to note that, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 October 2012, Turkish forces fired artillery shells towards Syrian territory south of Tall Abyad. The shelling stopped at midnight. The Turkish forces then resumed their bombardment and continued until 7 a.m. on Thursday, 4 October 2012. Two Syrian officers were injured in the shelling. Our forces exercised self-restraint and did not respond to the Turkish bombardment.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Turkish Government to cooperate in controlling the border, as that is in the interests of both parties, while abiding by the principles of respect for national sovereignty and good-neighbourly relations.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative